Wealth Markets and Commerce

Finance - Economics

WALL STREET OFFICE:
Mills Building, 15 Wall St.

Telephone
Hanover 6514

Announcement that a committee is to be appointed "to consider the desirability and feasibility of effecting a stabilization of cotton prices"—which means, presumably, price fixing, since there is no other way of effectively stabilizing prices—upset the cotton market yesterday and caused a sharp drop in quotations. Brokers and traders were much worried by the announcement, because the fixing of prices would eliminate speculation in the commodity, just as it did in the case of wheat. But time may prove that those who sold cotton on the news acted too hastily. There is a wide difference between appointing a committee to consider the question and the actual fixing of prices. The investigation is likely to be quite as much political as economic in character, and the opinion was expressed in many quarters that no action would be taken by the proposed committee, owing to the bitterness of the opposition in the politically powerful South. Also, it was said that there might be such great improvement in the crop prospect in the next few weeks that stabilization would be considered unnecessary.

The attitude of the South toward price fixing has shifted amazingly in the last few months. Early in the year there was a wild outcry when such action was proposed, one Southern Senator going so far as to say that if the demand for a fixed price for cotton should be pressed he would insist upon the fixing of all commodity prices, including the price of labor, regardless of the necessity for such action. But that was when prices were high and seemingly were going higher. Then came an unprecedented improvement in the cotton prospect, and prices promptly slumped. Whereupon, the South began to demand the fixing of prices upon a level substantially higher than that which prevailed at the time. Some Southern organizations went so far as to demand that the government guaranty to purchase at a fancy price all cotton that the planters were unable to dispose of in other ways. Then disaster befell the growing crop, prices rose to new record levels, and now it is contended that "there should be no interference with the law of demand and supply," that the market should be allowed to take its own course, which one enthusiastic Southern grower yesterday prophesied would lead the price above 40 cents a pound. If the government, whether wisely or not does not matter much now, were not already committed to a policy of price fixing, the South's contention would perhaps be received sympathetically elsewhere, but it is naturally hard to convince the wheat grower that cotton should be immune when profits on his product have been fixed by naming a price relatively much lower than the current price for cotton. The argument that price fixing would prevent hedging operations is not very convincing, inasmuch as there would be no necessity for hedging in a stabilized market.

The best suggestion yet made in connection with the discussion of non-essential credits is that presented by Governor Harding, of the Federal Reserve Board, in the address delivered last night before the Ohio Bankers' Association—namely, that the Federal Reserve banks organize, "each in its own district, local groups of leading bankers and business men, in order to discuss ways and means of bringing about the desired result." Coöperation between the banks and business men is exactly what is needed, but as it stands the banks must make all decisions relating to credits on their own responsibility. Mr. Harding takes exception to the suggestion that curtailment of credit should be effected through advancing rediscount rates, a plan recently advocated by the American Bankers Association. "The board does not believe," he says, "that in the existing situation marked advances in rates would be advisable, in view of the obvious necessity of avoiding any policy likely to disturb the financial operations of the Treasury. The needs of those industries and commercial enterprises which are directly contributory to the conduct of the war must be supplied at all hazards, and a drastic advance in discount rates would not reduce the financial requirements of such concerns, but would merely impose an added cost upon the people."

He added that "it is exceedingly difficult to lay down any fixed and definite rules to govern in distinguishing between essential and non-essential credits. A loan might be desired for what appears at first glance to be a non-essential purpose, and yet failure to obtain the credit might create a condition which might indirectly have a distinctly harmful effect upon the ability of productive enterprises in the community to obtain credit. In the same way, in the larger centres, refusal by banks as a group to lend on standard securities would seriously impair the liquidity of investments and would force liquidation which might disturb very seriously the whole financial situation." This may be significant in connection with the recent request of local bankers for a ruling as to whether they were to consider Stock Exchange loans essential.

Money and Credit

Fresh government withdrawals of deposits from local banks imparted a firmer tone to the money market yesterday. At the Stock Exchange call loans ruled at 6 to 6½ per cent and practically all business was done on this basis. On Wednesday some loans were placed at 5 per cent.

Offerings of fixed date funds were nil yesterday. It was reported that many institutions are requesting the payment of maturing time obligations, and it is understood that quite a substantial volume has been paid off in recent days.

Ruling rates for money yesterday, compared with a year ago, were as follows:

	Yerterday. Per cent.	Year ago. Per cent.
Call money:		
On mixed collateral	6	6
On industrial col't'l	6½	6½
Time money (mixed collateral):		
Sixty days	6	4¼@4½
Ninety days	6	4½@5
Four months	6	5 @5¼
Five to six months	6	5 @5¼

Commercial Paper.—This market continued quiet, with a moderate volume of discounting at 6 per cent for all maturities.

Bank Acceptances.—The demand for bills eligible for rediscount is somewhat broader. Rates yesterday were as follows:

Spot delivery:	Thirty days. Per cent.	Sixty days. Per cent.	Ninety days. Per cent.
Eligible member banks	4¼@4	4⅜@4¼	4⅜@4¼
Eligible non-member banks	4¼@4⅛	4⅜@4⅛	4⅜@4⅛
Ineligible bank bills	5¼@4	5¼@4¾	5¼@4¾

For delivery within thirty days:

	Per cent.
Eligible member banks	4½
Eligible non-member banks	4⅝
Ineligible bank bills	6

Discount Rates.—The following table gives the current rates of the twelve Federal Reserve banks on commercial paper on all periods up to ninety days:

	Maturity—Within 15 days, including member banks' collateral notes	16 to 60 days, inclusive	61 to 90 days inclusive
Boston	4	4¾	4¾
New York	4	4¾	4¾
Philadelphia	4	4¾	4¾
Cleveland	4¼	4¾	4¾
Richmond	4¾	5	5
Atlanta	4	4¾	4¾
Chicago	4	4¾	5
St. Louis	4	4¾	4¾
Minneapolis	4	4¾	5
Kansas City	4½	5¼	5¼
Dallas	4	4¾	5
San Francisco	4	4¾	4¾

Bank Clearings.—Bank clearings in New York and other cities were:

	Exchanges.	Balances.
New York	$634,063,775	$73,631,416
Boston	54,962,626	11,193,993
Chicago	89,001,796	8,226,055

Sub-Treasury. — The banks lost $107,000 to the Sub-Treasury yesterday.

Silver.—London, 49½d, unchanged; New York, 101⅛c, unchanged; Mexican dollars, 78⅞c, unchanged.

Bank of England.—LONDON, Sept. 5.—Bank of England reported an increase in gold holdings of £388,033 for the week. The proportion of reserves to liabilities now stands at 17.65 per cent, compared with 17.16 a week ago. The statement with the changes from last week follows:

Gold	£69,932,857	Inc.	£388,033
Reserve	29,785,000	Dec.	597,000
Notes reserv.	29,112,000	Dec.	611,000
Circulation	58,597,000	Inc.	985,000
Pub. dep.	37,012,000	Inc.	2,094,000
Other dep.	131,725,000	Dec.	4,384,000
Gov. sec.	58,162,000	Dec.	1,288,000
Other sec.	98,885,000	Dec.	367,000

Bank of France.—PARIS, Sept. 5.—The Bank of France statement, with the changes from the preceding week, follows, in francs:

Gold	5,436,076,000	Inc.	768,000
Silver	320,793,000	Dec.	323,000
Circ'l't'n	29,727,363,000	Inc.	293,423,000
Gen. dep.	3,277,071,000	Dec.	200,140,000
Bills dis.	2,790,144,000	Dec.	11,457,000
Treas. dep.	328,492,000	Inc.	6,967,000

London Money Rates. — LONDON, Sept. 5.—Money was unchanged at 3 per cent. Discount rates were short and three-month bills 3 17-32 per cent. Gold premiums at Lisbon remained 130.00.

The Dollar in Foreign Exchange

A slightly easier tone was shown by the neutral exchanges yesterday and rates on Paris were firm. The Federal Reserve Bank announced another improvement in favor of Italy on the rate on lire bills. Sterling exchange remained unchanged.

Closing rates yesterday compared with a week ago follow:

(Quoted dollars to the pound.)

	Yesterday.	Week ago.
Sterling, demand	$4.7545	$4.7550
Sterling, sixty days	4.73	4.73
Sterling, cables	4.76	4.7660
Sterling, ninety days	4.71⅝	4.71⅝

(Quoted units to the dollar.)

Francs, checks	5.47½	5.51
Francs, cables	5.46½	5.50
Lire, checks	6.36	6.35
Lire, cables	6.34½	6.34
Swiss, checks	4.47	4.24
Swiss, cables	4.45	4.22

(Quoted cents to the unit.)

Guilders, checks	.48½	.51⅛
Guilders, cables	.49	.51½
Rubles, cables	13.00	13.00
Spain, checks	23.40	23.70
Spain, cables	23.60	23.90
Sweden, checks	33.50	35.05
Sweden, cables	33.80	35.25
Denmark, checks	30.30	31.00
Denmark, cables	30.50	31.15
Norway, checks	30.80	31.25
Norway, cables	31.00	31.54
Argentina, checks	.44½	.44½
Argentina, cables	.44⅝	.44⅝
India, rupees, checks	.37½	.36¾
India, rupees, cables	.37¾	.37⅞
India, rupees, cables, Reserve Bank rate	.37¼	.37¼

Below is given the current exchange value of foreign money in dollars and cents, together with the intrinsic gold parity, as calculated by the United States Mint:

	Current exchange value.	Intrinsic value.
Pounds, sterling	$4.7560	$4.86⅝
Francs	0.17.8	0.19.3
Guilders	0.52	0.40.2
Rubles	0.13	0.51.2
Lire, checks	0.13.33	0.19.3
Crowns (Denmark)	0.31.40	0.26.8
Crowns (Sweden)	0.35.70	0.26.8

The above rates express the cost of foreign money in terms of the American dollar. You buy an English pound sterling at, say, $4.7560. The intrinsic parity is $4.86⅝ per pound. Thus you say either that pounds are at a discount or that dollars are at a premium, which is owing to the fact that in England the demand for dollars with which to settle accounts in this country is greater than the demand in this country for pounds with which to settle accounts in England.

Relevant Comment

New Haven Bonds Strong

Bonds of the New Haven railroad and affiliated companies developed pronounced strength yesterday. The New Haven convertible 3½s of 1956 should at 53 and sold up to 60, compared with 53 at the close of last week. The New Haven 3½ debentures of 1954 sold at 62, compared with 51½ last week. New York, Westchester & Boston 4½s opened at 52¾, sold to 60 and closed at 56. The last previous sale of these bonds were made at 52½ and the low for the year is 45. There was no special explanation for the sensational rise in these issues apart from the fact that Wall Street looks now for an early completion of the railroad contract that will clear up much of the uncertainty surrounding the general railroad situation.

Tobacco Notes Bear 7 P. C. Interest

The $25,000,000 issue of American Tobacco Company notes, which a syndicate headed by the Guaranty Trust Company is prepared to offer as soon as the capital issues committee gives its approval of the company's refunding operation, will run from one to five years and will bear interest at 7 per cent. It was denied yesterday that the bankers had already purchased the notes. This development, it was pointed out, would depend largely on the governing body's decision as to whether the issue may be floated before the next Liberty Loan.

May Form Protective Committee

In lieu of the Railroad Administration's failure to advance the funds necessary to meet the $15,000,000 Chicago & Western Indiana one-year notes that fell due last Tuesday, the advisability of forming a protective committee for the issue is being considered. The Bankers Trust Company, as trustee under the note indenture, has requested the road to prepare a list of fifty of the most prominent noteholders with a view to determining the personnel of the committee. It is likely that any official action, however, will await the decision of the board of directors, which is scheduled to convene next Tuesday.

U. S. Treasury Account In France

Advices from Paris yesterday called attention to a new item appearing in the detailed statement of the Bank of France designated "United States Treasury Account." A statement explaining this said: "The presence of an American army, which is constantly increasing, has brought about negotiations between the French and American governments. Without awaiting a conclusion of these pourparlers, the American treasury has placed a special credit of $200,000,000 at the disposition of the French treasury, which has transferred it to the Bank of France on the basis of metallic parity, thus reducing advances by the Bank. As these dollars are utilized, the bank will credit the treasury with the difference between the metallic [illegible]y and the rate of exchange at which the dollars are transferred. The government thus itself is integrally assured of the benefit of the exchange resulting from this operation, of which the first effect is to liquidate its debt to the bank of 1,086,000,000 francs."

Decrease in Exports

The decrease recently in exports from Amsterdam to the United States is due chiefly to lack of shipping facilities, although new requirements in regard to consular invoices are also a factor. The declared value of exports for the June quarter this year, $1,629,303, was the smallest for many years. Of this amount $1,419,800 was for diamonds.

Railroads Will Handle All Coal Mines Can Produce

No Fuel Shortage Through Rail Congestion, Says McAdoo's Assistant

Director General McAdoo conferred in this city yesterday with his railroad lieutenants of the Eastern region in the office of Regional Director A. H. Smith. After the meeting, Oscar A. Price, assistant to the Director General, speaking for Mr. McAdoo, said: "There is no chance of another great railroad tie-up such as was experienced last winter, and there is no danger of a fuel débâcle so far as the railroads' part in preventing one is concerned. The roads will be able to handle all the coal that the miners can extract.

"The Federal managers told Mr. McAdoo," Mr. Price added, "that they no longer expected to be seriously troubled with a shortage of labor. Since the increase last June in the pay for the workers in the mechanical crafts there has been a great improvement in the man power situation for the railroads. Though the remuneration offered by the roads is still much less than offered in ammunition plants and in shipyards, the stability and permanence of the work are proving attractive. The new pay increase announced to-day, which will affect nearly 1,000,000 persons, is expected by the Federal managers very largely to solve the question of sufficient labor for the railroads.

"Notwithstanding the higher rates, data brought out at the conference indicated that 25 per cent more passengers are being hauled by the railroads in the Eastern region at this time than ever before. In spite of this, there is not a car in the United States that cannot be speedily moved to its destination. There is now virtually no congestion on the roads as a result of unified operation."

Army Depends on Roads

The object of the meeting was to give the Director General and his staff a more precise view of the condition of the individual roads in this region. Mr. McAdoo, in a brief address, stirred the enthusiasm of the fifty Federal managers present.

"If transportation fails," the Director General told his aids, "we have lost the war. The railroads constitute an integral part of the war machine, and it is supremely necessary that they keep the tracks clear so that they bring food and clothing to the seaports for our boys overseas.

"Let us run these railroads with the same efficiency with which General Pershing runs his army. In military science the coördination must not be on the hour or the minute, but on the second. When an army plans an attack every step in the movement is thought out in advance. When the barrage starts, everything is synchronized that the attack proceeds with a maximum of protection to all the participants. The railroad system of the country must be coördinated in just this way. Trains must be on hand at the dot. If you cannot live up to your present schedules, lengthen your schedules. Be on time, to the second."

Too Much Passenger Traffic

Mr. McAdoo said he deplored the fact that civilian passenger travel was so large at this time, when the roads are needed to carry freight necessary to the winning of the war and are also taxed with heavy troop movements. Nevertheless, he said, facilities should be made adequate for the passenger traffic in every way. Mr. McAdoo, who, as a result of his recent inspection tour, is familiar with railroad conditions throughout the country, assured the executives that transportation is now at its peak and that it was not going to fail.

Besides reporting improvement in labor conditions, the Federal managers also stated that the roads were much better equipped in motor power than last winter.

In addition to the Federal managers and Messrs. McAdoo, Smith and Price, Carl Gray, director of operations of the railroads; Edward Chambers, director of traffic; Judge R. S. Lovett, director of capital expenditures; H. A. Worcester, director of the Ohio-Indiana district, and J. H. Eustis, director of the New England district, attended the conference.

In the evening Mr. McAdoo visited his son at the United States Naval Station at Bayshore, L. I. He will inspect the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad to-day and also Hell Gate Bridge and the Cedar Hills yards. He will visit the Boston terminals and the Cape Cod canals to-morrow.

Significant Relations

Money and Prices:			
Stock of gold money in the country	Now. $3,080,767,000		A year ago. $3,086,218,000
Loans of all national banks	June 29, 1918 $9,260,402,000		Nearest period previous year $8,818,312,000
Their surplus reserves	152,819,000		841,931,000
Bills discounted and bought by Federal Reserve Banks	Last week $1,428,235,000		A year ago $301,906,000
Federal Reserve notes in circulation	2,092,708,000		587,915,000
Total gold reserve	2,013,799,000		1,353,498,000
Average price of fifty stocks	Yesterday. 79.60	The day before. 79.66	A year ago 79.52
Average price of twenty-five bonds	84.33	84.35	90.13
Food cost of living (Annalist index number)	Last week. 292.110	The week before. 290.021	A year ago. 267.641
General commodity price level (Dun's index number)	August 1. 232.058	July 1. 232.575	A year ago. 218.779
Production:			
Unfilled U. S. Steel orders, tons	July 31 8,883,801	June 30 8,918,866	A year ago. 10,844,164
Pig iron (daily average), tons	August 109,341	July. 110,354	A year ago. 104,772
Wheat crop, bushels	1918 yield, estimated. 878,000,000		The 1917 crop. 650,828,000
Oat crop, bushels	1,428,000,000		1,587,286,000
Corn crop, bushels	2,898,000,000		3,159,494,000
Cotton, bales	11,137,000		11,300,254
Distribution:	Increase or decrease from year before—		
Gross railroad earnings	4 roads Third week in August +11.3%	184* roads Month of June +12.5%	Jan. 1 to June 30 +9.6%
Bank clearings	Last week +13.3%	Week before. +22.6%	Year to date. +6.6%
General:			
Active cotton spindles	July 31. 33,674,896	June 30. 33,720,413	A year ago. 33,418,233
Commercial failures (Dun's):			
Number	August 720	July. 786	A year ago 1,149
Liabilities	$7,984,760	$9,789,572	$18,085,207
Building permits (Bradstreet's): (154 cities)	July, 1918. $42,737,066		July, 1917. $56,442,838

*Includes 14 switching and terminal companies.

Price-Fixing Talk Causes Big Break In Cotton Prices

Cotton prices in the New York market tumbled severely yesterday as a result of the announcement of Bernard M. Baruch, chairman of the War Industries Board, that a committee would be selected to determine whether control of distribution and price stabilization were necessary.

General liquidation in the morning dragged the price level far from the high marks established Tuesday. When the downward movement had taken its course December contracts, for example, sold at 32.05c, 235 points below the closing price of Wednesday and 4½c a pound less than the high of Tuesday. Although the market remained unsettled, rallies later improved the quotations, and the general list closed steady at a net decline of 110 to 132 points.

Members of the exchange who discussed the proposed price fixing without exception said that so-called stabilization would greatly injure the cotton industry and the country. Walter L. Johnson, president of the Cotton Exchange, summarized opinion around the ring, saying:

Cash Conditions a Factor

"It probably will be some time before any committee that is to be appointed will be ready to make any recommendations, and I believe that the outturn of the crop and prevailing prices at that time will be important factors in determining whether the price of cotton shall be regulated or not.

"If a definite price for all sales of cotton should be fixed there would be no further useful purpose to be served by future contract markets, but I believe it would be a mistake for the government to take such a course, and I do not think that such action will be taken."

Other members expressed their belief that even the Southern growers probably would oppose price fixing unless guaranteed a higher price than now prevails. They pointed out that the planters in the South suffered greatly in the early months of the war, when the Cotton Exchange was closed, as they were unable to find a quick outlet for their product.

The break in prices did not necessarily imply any general belief that such an investigation as proposed would result in the fixing of prices at a materially lower level, but Mr. Baruch's statement had an unsettling effect on sentiment which led to a fairly general disposition to even up commitments.

Liquidation Was Urgent

Coming after such prolonged and extensive advances as have occurred in the market during the last month, this naturally took the form of urgent liquidation. As the decline extended the selling naturally became more excited and urgent, and, after opening weak at decline of 87 to 106 points, active months sold 222 to 235 points under Wednesday's prices. Offerings then subsided and there were rallies on covering and buying believed to be for Japanese account. Closing prices were within 5 or 10 points of the best point reached on the recovery.

Further rains were reported in the Southwest, and a more optimistic view has developed as to their possible effect on the final yield, depending upon the frost date and future weather conditions. There might have been some selling in this respect, even had there been no announcement from Washington, and there was also considerable Southern selling at the start.

The selling of the latter sort was shut out by the rapidity of the decline, as it was mostly on limited orders and was little in evidence during the afternoon. According to local spot interests, Southwestern holders showed a disposition to withdraw their offerings on the decline below 35 cents, but there was a moderate business officially reported on the break yesterday. Houston, for instance, reported sales of 5,424 bales at a decline of 115 points to 33.50 cents for middling, and other spot markets showed declines ranging from 75 to 200 points, with a smaller volume of business.

A comparison of prices follows:

	Yes'day's close.	Previous close.	Year ago.
Cash	35.55	37.00	22.20
Contract:			
October	33.75	35.02	20.67
December	33.18	34.40	20.60
January	33.05	34.31	20.51
March	33.00	34.17	20.72
May	33.00	34.00	20.85

Cotton States' Senators Oppose Price Fixing

WASHINGTON, Sept. 5.—Senators from cotton-growing states at a conference to-day decided to protest to President Wilson against any action by the War Industries Board looking to the fixing of cotton prices. The Senators hope to see the President to-morrow.

Chairman Baruch of the War Industries Board announced yesterday that a committee soon would be appointed with the approval of the President to visit the cotton-growing states and inquire into the "advisability and feasibility" of stabilizing cotton prices for the protecton of both the producers and consumers and of handling the crop so that the needs of the United States and the Allies could be met.

The board's decision resulted from the sharp deterioration of the crop in July and August, owing to severe drouth.

Federal Reserve Against Inflation

COLUMBUS, Ohio, Sept. 5.—W. P. G. Harding, governor of the Federal Reserve Board, speaking to-day before the convention of the Ohio Bankers' Association, vigorously defended the reserve system against the criticism of the anti-inflationists. The Federal Reserve Board, Governor Harding said, has had constantly in mind the dangers of inflation of the currency, and while it has devoted itself assiduously to building up the gold holdings of the Federal Reserve banks it has, in permitting the issuance of Federal Reserve notes, always insisted that they be used as sparingly as possible, with the double purpose of maintaining the strength of the banks and of avoiding redundancy.

Governor Harding pointed out that while the expansion in currency circulation was taking place there has been a very large increase in the deposits and in the loans and discounts of the national banks and state banks and trust companies. He estimated that the deposits of both member and non-member banks of the Reserve system increased from October 30, 1914, to June 29, 1918, by more than $11,000,000,000 and the loans by about $7,000,000,000.

Elections

Percy A. Rockefeller has been elected president of the United Metals Selling Company, succeeding John D. Ryan, who resigned because of government duties.

Railroad Workers Get $150,000,000 Increase in Wages

Those Drawing Less Than $100 a Month Mostly Affected

WASHINGTON, Sept. 5.—Nearly a million railroad employes, including all clerks, track laborers and maintenance of way men, are to receive wage increases of $25 a month, the equivalent of one dollar a day, or twelve cents an hour, over the pay they received last January 1, under a wage order issued to-day by Director General McAdoo.

Advances are effective as of September 1.

This order, affecting half the railroad men in the United States and adding approximately $150,000,000 to the annual payroll, according to calculations of labor representatives, represents the second largest aggregate wage increase ever granted in American industrial history. It is supplementary to the general railroad wage order issued nearly four months ago, providing for about $300,000,000 increases; and, for the classes of employes affected, it supplants provisions of that order.

The order specified that eight hours is to be considered the basic day, but overtime up to ten hours is to be paid pro rata, with one and one-half the regular rate for overtime past the ten hours. Specific rules are laid down for the promotion of employes on grounds of merit and seniority.

Other regulations, forbidding dismissal of employes without cause and providing for hearing on appeal, resemble the rules now in effect under government civil service. These restrictions will affect mainly the half million railway clerks.

Thousands of women clerks employed by the railroads are to receive the same pay as men for similar work, but the interpretation of "similar work" is left to executives.

Back pay from January 1 will be made under the former general wage order, and the advances now granted will be figured on top of the wages last January 1, rather than on the pay received in the immediate past under the general war increase.

Commodities

Industrial

Cotton

For an account of trading and prices on the New York Cotton Exchange yesterday see another column.

Metals

Current prices for the principal metals, compared with those prevailing a year ago, follow:

	Current price.	A year ago.
Pig iron, Bessemer, Pittsburgh	$36.60	$51.95
Copper, electrolytic, lb.	.26	.26 @.26½
Tin, lb.	.88	.61
Lead, lb.	.08 1-20	.09⅝@.10⅛
Spelter, East St. Louis, lb.	.09⅛	.07¾@.07⅞

Sustenance

Cereals

Wheat.—The recent rains which extended over practically the entire wheat belt of the country have placed the soil in an unusually fine condition for fall ploughing. Farmers are now busily engaged in preparing their land for fall seeding, and as the farmers are now assured of a good price for their wheat next year it is believed that a very large acreage will be planted. Ploughing is also in progress in the Northwest, which will very materially facilitate seeding operations of spring wheat next year.

Corn.—The corn market was comparatively steady during the greater part of the day, but price changes were rather feverish at times and the trade was apparently considerably puzzled over the situation at large. Receipts at Western points, especially Chicago, were large, but it was said that country offers were materially reduced. It was thought that the recent rains will delay marketing of corn from the farms, while, furthermore, farmers are now busily engaged with their fall ploughing.

	Yes'day's close.	Previous close.	Year ago.
New York:			
Corn, No. 2 yellow	$1.77⅞	$1.73⅞	$2.24½
Chicago:			
September	1.55⅝	1.55⅛	—
October	1.57¼	1.56⅞	—

Oats.—The oats market was inactive and rather heavy, closing net unchanged to ⅜c lower. There was considerable liquidation on the part of September longs in the West, which gave the impression that the cash demand was slower and that holders of grain in elevators might be expected to tender it on September contracts. Country offers were said to be light, but receipts were again large.

	Yesterday's close	Previous close.	Year ago.
New York:			
Oats, No. 3 white	.81	.81	.69½
Chicago:			
September	.70⅝	.71	.56¼
October	.72½	.72⅝	—

Rye.—Market steady.

	Yesterday's close.	Previous close.	Year ago.
New York:			
Cash, No. 2 West.	$1.72	$1.72	$1.90

Flour and Meal.—Quotations were:

	Yes'day's close.	Previous close.	Year ago.
New York:			
Flour, Minn., spg. pat.	$11.10	$11.10	$12.75
Cornmeal, yellow, gran	4.90	4.90	*9.95
Rye flour, choice	9.45	9.45	11.25

*Kiln dried.

Hay and Straw

	Yesterday (Per ton.)	A year ago.
Timothy, No. 1, large bales	$30.00@32.00	$23.00@24.00
No. 1 clover mxd	22.00@25.00	19.00@20.00
Rye straw, No. 1	18.00@ ——	15.00@ ——

Produce Markets—Current

Butter.—Receipts totalled 9,071 packages. Creamery, higher than extras, lb, 50½@51c; extras, 92 score, 49¾@50c; firsts, 88 to 91 score, 47½@49½c; seconds, 83 to 87 score, 44½@47c; thirds, 42@43½c; unsalted, higher than extras, 52@52½c; extras, 51@51½c; firsts, 49@50½c; seconds, 46@48½c; state dairy tubs, finest, 49@49½c; good to prime, 46½@48½c; common to fair, 41@46c; renovated, extras, 43@43½c; firsts, 42@42½c; lower grades, 38½@41c; imitation creamery, firsts, 40@41c; ladles, current make, firsts, 38@38½c; seconds, 36½c; lower grades, 35@36c; packing stock, current make, No. 1, 36@36½c; No. 2, 35½c; lower grades, 33½@35c.

Cheese.—Receipts amounted to 2,851 boxes. State, whole milk, fresh flats, specials, colored, lb, 27@27¼c; white, 27@27½c; average run, colored, 26½c; white, 26½c; lower grades, 22@26c; twins, specials, 26¼@27c; average run, 26¼@26½c; lower grades, 27½c; single daisies, 27@27¼c; double daisies, 26¾@27c; Wisconsin, single daisies, 27¼@27½c; double daisies, 27@27¼c; Young Americas, 28c; state skims, fresh, specials, 21@22c; prime to choice, 19@20¾c; fair to good, 14@18c; lower grades, 7@13c.

Eggs.—Receipts amounted to 22,693 cases. Fresh gathered extras, per dozen, 51@52c; extra firsts, 48@50c; firsts, 44@47c; seconds and poorer, 30@43c; fresh gathered dirties, No. 1, 37@38c; No. 2 and poorer, 28@36c; fresh gathered checks, good to choice, dry, 32@34c; under grades, 25@31c; refrigerator, special marks, fancy charges paid, 43½@44c; firsts, charges paid, 42½@43c; seconds, charges paid, 38@42c; State, Penn. and nearby Western hennery whites, fine to fancy, 62@67c; ordinary to prime, 45@60c; gathered whites, ordinary to fine, 45@62c; Pacific Coast whites, firsts to finest, 61@63; Western and Southern gathered whites, 42@60c; State, Penn. and nearby hennery browns, 54@58c; gathered brown and mixed colors, 38@52c.

Fresh Poultry—Dressed

Spring Ducklings.—Long Island and Pennsylvania, lb, 38c.

Squabs.—Prime, white, 6-10 lbs and over to dozen, per dozen, $3.50@$4.50; dark, per dozen, $2@$3; culls, per dozen, $1@$1.50.

Live Poultry

Broilers.—Fancy, via express, lb, 36c; average Leghorns, via express, lb, 35c; Western, via freight, 32@34c; Southwestern, via freight, 31@33c; Southern, via freight, 31@33c; fowls, fancy, heavy, via express, 33@35c; Leghorns, via express, 30@32c; fancy, heavy, via freight, 34@35c; medium, via freight, 32@33c; light, via freight, 29@31c; old roosters, via freight, 25c; turkeys, via freight or express, 28@30c; Long Island spring ducklings, lb, 43c; ducks, via express, 30@38c; via freight, 28@32c; geese, via freight or express, 21@23c; guineas, per pair, via freight, 75c@$1; live pigeons, per pair, freight, 40@50c.

Livestock, Meats, Provisions

Following are yesterday's prices, compared with those of a year ago:

	Yesterday.	A year ago.
Live steers, best, 100 lb	$15.00 @$18.50	$8.20 @$15.45
Dressed beef sides, lb	.20 @ .28½	.14 @ .22
Live veals, best, 100 lb	16.50 @ 21.00	12.00 @ 17.00
Dressed veals, city, lb	.25 @ .33	.22 @ .28
Live ewes, 100 lb	8.00 @ 12.50	7.00 @ 11.00
Lambs, fair to prime, 100 lb	15.50 @ 17.75	16.00 @ 18.25
Dressed mutton, lb	.18 @ .25	.11 @ .20
Dressed lambs, lb	.22 @ .28	.22 @ .26½
Hogs, 100 lb	20.25 @ 20.75	18.50 @ —
Dressed hogs, bacon, lb	.23½ @ .29½	.24½ @ .25½
Mess pork, bbl	49.00 @ 49.50	46.50 @ —
Mess beef, bbl	35.00 @ 36.00	29.00 @ 30.00
Lard, Middle West, lb	27.25c @ 27.35	23.70c @ 23.80

Coffee, Sugar, Tea and Cottonseed Oil

For cash:	Current prices (cents).	A year ago.
Tea, Formosa, per lb	30	26
Sugar, granulated, per lb	7.50	8.40
Coffee, Rio No. 7, per lb	9½	9
Cottonseed oil, per lb	—	15.25

Coffee Futures.—The market opened unchanged to a decline of 14 points, March showing the greatest weakness. The sharp declines in the Santos market brought out some realizing. The demand came from local trade houses which have been consistent buyers of late. Later in the day the strength in the spot situation and in the cost and freight market tended to check offerings and the market closed steady, net unchanged to a decline of 11 points.

Contract.	Yesterday's close.	Previous close.
September	8.50@ —	7.43@7.45
December	8.95@ —	7.71@7.72
January	9.05@9.10	7.92@7.93
March	9.30@9.33	8.06@8.07

Cottonseed Oil.—The market was dull and featureless with prices nominal. Advices from Washington said that at a meeting of the capital state food administrators it had been decided to stabilize the price of cottonseed at the average price of last year. This means that the price of crude oil will remain at 17½ cents f. o. b. the mills, or the same as has prevailed during the last season.

Average Cost of Wheat

WASHINGTON, Sept. 5.—The average cost of wheat production is estimated as $2.25 a bushel, E. H. Thompson, acting chief of the Bureau of Farm Management, told the Senate Agriculture Committee to-day. Mr. Thompson said, however, that even with a further increase of 10 per cent in costs farmers of the Central West should be able to "break even" at the primary market price of $2.20 fixed by President Wilson for next year's crop.